

# HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

## MEETING NEWS

Wednesday 12 August 2020

Copies of the current Hawkesbury Family History Group Meeting news sheet including archived copies can be accessed at <http://www.hfhg.hawkesbury.net.au>

Find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG](http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG) & Library [www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary)

HAWKESBURY FAMILY HISTORY GROUP ~ MEETING DATES ~ 2020	
12 AUGUST	TOPE 10 FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES / MICHELLE NICHOLS (NOTES ON P.3)
9 SEPTEMBER	TO BE ADVISED
14 OCTOBER	TO BE ADVISED

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

The Hawkesbury Family History Group have not met together since March due to Covid-19 restrictions. A few members have met in June and July via Zoom to touch base. We have restarted meetings in Tebbutt Room as of today but bookings are now required and numbers are limited to 20. Book at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/hawkesbury-library-service-11842492197>

It is with a sense of loss we report the passing of some of our members and associates. Our thoughts are with their families at this time.



### VALE JOHN ALFRED NORRIS 1936-2020

Passed away 24 July, aged 83 years, late of North Rocks

John with wife Ena have been members of the group for many years. He helped with setting up meetings and attending events, representing the group. He was kind and generous and was always ready to lend a hand. A real gentleman. Our sincere sympathies to Ena. His Memorial Service was held on Tuesday 4 August.



### VALE ROBYNNE JANE WINLEY 1953-2020

Passed away unexpectedly 25 July 2020, late of Cattai

Robynne was a proud descendant of many Hawkesbury families and been involved with our group for many years. She was part of the Hawkesbury Pioneer Register editorial team and also attended events, representing the group, over the years. Robynne worked at Hawkesbury Library in the past but has worked at Holroyd Library for the past 27 years.

Robynne's service was held at the Anglican Cemetery, Pitt Town on Thursday 6 August.



### VALE ALAN ALDRICH

Alan Aldrich passed away 12 July 2020. Alan was a past president of the Hawkesbury Historical Society and keen on preserving the Hawkesbury's local history. Alan was also member of the Hawkesbury Historical Society and volunteer at Hawkesbury Regional Museum.



### VALE JEAN PURTELL 1928-2020

Local historian Jean Purtell passed away 24 July 2020. Jean speciality was the boats and traders of the Hawkesbury River and wrote several books including The Mosquito Fleet: Hawkesbury River trade & Traders 1794-1994. In the 1980s she wrote a newspaper column on local history and volunteered with the Oral History Project of Hawkesbury Library Service. Jean donated copies of her research, historical photographs and books to the Local Studies Collection.

## NEWS

### FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Many organisations are offering free workshops and talks during Family History Month. Many are free and available online. For a full list go to <https://familyhistorymonth.org.au/events/> Check out following:

Newspapers for Family History Trove upgraded by National Library of Australia

26 August 2020, 1pm-2.30pm FREE Book [www.nla.gov.au/event/newspapers-for-family-history-upgraded-trove](http://www.nla.gov.au/event/newspapers-for-family-history-upgraded-trove)

Five fundamentals for Family History by State Library of NSW

During August, more info and bookings at

<https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/events/family-history-month-webinar-five-fundamentals-family-history>

Watch Was your ancestor in business? Business and trade records in the NSW State Archives Collection now available to view on State Records website with many other free webinars

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/webinars>

### STUBBS FAMILY REUNION

A number of family reunions planned for 2020 have had to be postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Stubbs Family Reunion day at Ebenezer Church scheduled for 19 October has been postponed until 2021. For more info see Stubbs Family Website and link <http://~sites.rootsweb.com/~stubbs1802/reunion.htm>

### GOW FAMILY GATHERING & BOOK

It has been decided to postpone the Gow Family Gathering and the other activities planned for the October long weekend at Wilberforce. It may take place sometime in 2021, but organisers will keep our group informed. Stephen Gow's book on William Gow, From Distress to Deliverance, will still be published next month and it is hoped the proposed book launch at Windsor on Saturday 12 September may still take place. For further information and updates, see <https://wptgow.wordpress.com/2020/06/23/from-distress-to-deliverance/>

### NEW HISTORY PUBLISHED

A new book titled 'The Richmond Players Story in Five Acts' will be released shortly on the history of the Richmond Players. Put together by the Players with assistance from the Kurrajong Comleroy Historical Society the 328 page history tells the story of the establishment of this theatrical group and their association with the Richmond School of Arts. To pre-order your copy visit [www.richmondplayers.com.au/OurStory](http://www.richmondplayers.com.au/OurStory)

### ANCESTRY & FIND MY PAST

Both Ancestry and Find My Past have been made available for free to Library members to access at home during the pandemic. This access has been extended until September 2020. Access Ancestry Library via our Library Catalogue <https://aurora.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library/> and log in. Then click on Ancestry button in LH corner. To access Find My Past please email [history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) or phone 4560-4460 during business hours.

### SURFING THE INTERNET..... SITES FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS

You may be interested in checking out the following sites. Both Windsor and Richmond libraries, provide free internet access to members, and FREE wireless for your devices.

Reading old documents <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/reading-old-documents/>

Free access (UK) National Archives [www.irishgenealogynews.com/2020/04/national-archives-kew-free-access-to.html](http://www.irishgenealogynews.com/2020/04/national-archives-kew-free-access-to.html)

Free Census UK (FREECEN) <https://www.freecen.org.uk/>

### FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK

Hawkesbury Family History group [www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG](http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyFHG)

Hawkesbury Library [www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/HawkesburyLibrary)

***Let us know of sites, that you have tried with (or without) success***

Hawkesbury Family History Group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (except January) Meets in the Tebbutt Room of Hawkesbury Central Library, 300 George Street Windsor NSW 2756. Email [history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Anyone interested in family & local history, welcome to attend.

Enquiries Local History Librarian T: (02) 4560 4466 E: [history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:history@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

# TOP 10 HINTS FOR FAMILY RESEARCH

Brief notes and websites from talk given to Hawkesbury Family History Group meeting

By Michelle Nichols, 12 August 2020

## TIP 1 - Basic steps

Follow the basic steps of family history research. Start with yourself, work backwards to your parents, grandparents and great grandparents. Verify information with certificates, church records, family papers & other sources. Use charts available at <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/community/hfhg/forms.html> or Google fillable pedigree charts etc. Make sure you record and organise your research appropriately.



## TIP 2 – Photographs

Photographs are primary sources and may provide a wealth of information. May provide details of hair and clothing styles. Find images of your family in your collection, from family members. Also check collections of libraries, historical societies and Facebook pages. Also via Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

## TIP 3 - BDMs Certificates

Check BDM indexes and where possible, purchase certificates to locate more details. For details about Australian indexes see CoraWeb <http://www.coraweb.com.au/qs2ausbdmcosts.pdf> For UK FREEBMD <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/> and <http://www.coraweb.com.au/qs2ausbdmcosts.pdf>

## TIP 4 - Census Records

Census records are very useful for ages and also place a person in a place at a particular time and prove someone was alive at the time of the Census. Census records can be searched on Ancestry, Find My Past and also FREECEN <https://www.freecen.org.uk/> For background on NSW census and musters see <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/census-and-musters/guides>



## TIP 5 – Maps

Map your ancestors to put them in to context. Look for addresses from Census and other records etc in to today's Google maps. Some other useful websites are Trove <https://trove.nla.gov.au/> and Archives Maps <http://archivemaps.com/mapco/index.htm> & NSW Land records <https://www.nswlrs.com.au/Historical-Records-Online>

## TIP 6 - Cemetery records

Information headstone inscriptions can be useful. Details include name, date of death & age, possibly cause of death & occupation. Many headstones have been transcribed and can be accessed online. Some sites include:

Australian cemeteries Index <https://austcemindex.com/>

Australian cemeteries <http://www.australiancemeteries.com.au/>

Hawkesbury cemeteries <http://www.hawkesbury.net.au/cemetery/>



## TIP 7 - Publications

Read up about topics associated with your family research. This might be simply reading an article on Wikipedia or in-depth publications. Read about places, notable people, architecture, medical history and learn more contextual information. Try the following:

Project Gutenberg <http://gutenberg.net.au/>

Australian Dictionary of Biography <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

State Library of NSW catalogue <https://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/research-and-collections>

NSW Former Members of Parliament <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/formermembers/>

Australian Medical Pioneers index <http://www.medicalpioneers.com/sources.htm>

## TIP 8 WW1 records

Service records can provide a great deal of informative information from attestation papers, medical reports and correspondence. Best sites to start with are National Archives of Australia [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au) and the Australian War Memorial [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au) Newspapers are also helpful <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>



### TIP 9 – Repositories

Many organisations have their own repositories including government and privately run. Community groups and other organisations also have online presences. Worth checking their website and available material for research. The main repositories are State Records NSW [www.records.nsw.gov.au](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au) State Library of NSW [www.sl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au) National Library of Australia [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au) National Archives of Australia [www.naa.gov.au](http://www.naa.gov.au) Society of Australian Genealogists [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au) Royal Australian Historical Society [www.rahs.org.au](http://www.rahs.org.au) and Hawkesbury Library Service [www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/library)

Both the State Library of NSW <https://www2.sl.nsw.gov.au/eresources/> and National Library of Australia <http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/search/basic?vid=0&sid=0af54054-558d-43c5-865a-edb1047f72a4%40sessionmgr101> have eResources which you can access for free with your public library card. They also are providing free access to Ancestry.

### TIP 10 – Newspapers

Newspapers are an amazing source with information often not found elsewhere. Particularly useful for Announcements, Obituaries, Reports, business info, background and social information and local history. Check out:

Trove Newspapers <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>

NSW Government Gazettes <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/?type=gazette>

Ryerson Index <http://www.ryersonindex.org/>

New Zealand-Papers Past <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

British Newspaper Archives <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> is available in the Library for FREE. Register, search and bookmark references before visiting, to save time.

